



St James's
PICCADILLY

The Eucharist for Advent Sunday

**Sunday 30th November 2025
at 11am**

With a congregation in the church
and live on YouTube



Welcome to St James's Church. Whether you are with us in person or joining us online, you are very welcome.

Everyone is welcome to receive Communion or a blessing, so please do come forward when invited.

ORDER OF SERVICE

INTROIT

*O Emmanuel, words: from the "O" Antiphons
music: Michael Haslam*

OPENING HYMN

[Tune: Helmsley; Words; Charles Wesley (1707-1788)]

**Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia!
God appears on earth to reign.**

**Every eye shall now behold him
robed in glorious majesty;
we who set at nought and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.**

**Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears;
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture
gaze we on those glorious scars.**

**Sing, amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
claim the kingdom for thine own:
come, Lord Jesus!
Everlasting God, come down!**

OPENING RESPONSES

The priest says

Grace, mercy and peace from God and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you.

And also with you.

The priest welcomes everyone and introduces the service.

**Eternal God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden;
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

We light the first candle of Advent
in the circle of God's eternity,
and celebrate our ancestors
whose names are written in our Hebrew inheritance.
May we honour our forebears of old

and know ourselves to be children of Abraham and Sarah in the world today.

Amen.

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

The deacon says

The night is far spent and the day is at hand.
As we look for your coming, O God,
to dispel the lingering shadows of night;
we acknowledge that we turn aside
and fail to live by your light.
We seek for our hearts your love and peace;
that we may live in tune with creation
and grow communities of grace.
In silence we pause before you
to confess our need for your grace.

Silence is kept.

For now is the time to awake out of sleep
and to cast off the works of darkness.

ADVENT KYRIE (*Common Worship B1/Haslam*)

The cantor sings

Turn to us again, O God our saviour,
and let your anger cease from us:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Show us your compassion, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Your salvation is near for those that fear you,
that glory may dwell in our land:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

THE ABSOLUTION

The priest says

May the God of mercy and truth forgive you and set you free.

May you take God's forgiveness to heart and be at peace.

Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Collect

The priest says

Eternal God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin
to the light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 2.1-5

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall

be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Listen for what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 122

*Response: **How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts.***

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 24.36-44

The cantor sings and all repeat

We believe: *maranatha*, Light of the World.

We believe:* *maranatha*, Light of the World.

*(sing as a canon, 2nd part starting at *)*

The reader says

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

The cantor sings and all repeat

Glory to you O Lord. **Glory to you O Lord.**

Jesus said, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

The cantor sings and all repeat

Praise to you O Christ. **Praise to you O Christ.**

The cantor sings and all repeat

We believe: *maranatha*, Light of the World.

We believe:* *maranatha*, Light of the World.

*(sing as a canon, 2nd part starting at *)*

Please sit.

SERMON

The Revd Dr Ayla Lepine

A period of silence is kept for personal reflection.

APOSTLES' CREED

(from around 215 A.D. used during Advent and Lent)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The deacon says

Let us pray for the world, for the church,
for all in need and for those who have asked for our prayers.

*Please kneel or sit for prayers led by a member of the
congregation.*

THE PEACE

The priest says

To crown all things there must be love,
to bind together and complete the whole.
Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

The deacon says

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

The priest says

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Please share the Peace with your neighbours if you are in the building, and in the YouTube chat box if you are online.

*During the offertory hymn, a collection will be taken.
If you have cash, please fill in the Gift Aid envelopes in the pews with the pens available.*

If you don't have cash, please use the tap donate device in the collection plate, which is set to £5, or the QR code on page 16.

OFFERTORY HYMN

[Tune: Little Cornard; Words: Charles Edward Oakley (1832-1865), alt.]

**Hills of the north, rejoice,
echoing songs arise,
hail with united voice
God who made earth and skies:
who comes in righteousness and love,
who brings salvation from above.**

Isles of the southern seas
sing to the list'ning earth,
carry on ev'ry breeze
hope of a world's new birth:
in Christ shall all be made anew,
his word is sure, his promise true.

Lands of the east, arise,
Christ is your brightest morn,
greet him with joyous eyes,
praise shall his path adorn:
the God whom you have longed to know
in Christ draws near, and calls you now.

Shores of the utmost west,
lands of the setting sun,
welcome the heav'nly guest
in whom the dawn has come:
Christ brings a never-ending light
who triumphed o'er our darkest night.

Shout, as you journey on,
songs be in ev'ry mouth,
lo, from the north they come,
from east and west and south:
in Christ all people find their rest,
in God the longing earth be blest.

PRAYER AT THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

The priest says

God of light:
look on us in mercy not in judgement;
draw us from hatred to love;

from sorrow to feasting.
Make the frailty of our prayers
a dwelling place for your glory.
Amen.

GATHERING (*Taizé*)

All are invited to gather round the altar. Should you need to sit, please use any of the benches or seats around the altar at the front of the church.

While moving to the altar, please join in singing (as a round)

**The Lord is my light, my light and salvation.
In God I trust, in God I trust.**

The priest leads the Church's Thanksgiving for Creation and Redemption in Christ ...

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

The priest continues the Church's prayer of thanksgiving ...

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS (*Wetherick*)

The cantor sings
Holy, holy, holy Lord.
Holy, holy, holy Lord

**God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest,
Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Hosanna in the highest,
Hosanna in the highest.**

*The prayer of consecration continues recalling Christ's
command to his disciples at the Last Supper, ending with:
"...as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me"*

The cantor sings

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

*The prayer continues ...
at the end of the prayer, sing after the cantor*

**Blessing and honour and glory and power,
be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Silence is kept.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

You are invited to pray in your own language.

The priest says

Let us pray in the words that Jesus gave us.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

The Bread is broken and the priest says

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

AGNUS DEI *(Plainsong)*

The cantor sings

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi:
miserere nobis.

**Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi:
miserere nobis.**

**Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi:
dona nobis pacem.**

*O Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world;
have mercy on us.*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The priest says

This is the table of Christ.

It has been made ready for those who love God,
and those who want to love more.

So come; you who have much faith and you who have little.

You who have been to this sacrament often
and you who have not been for some time.

You who have tried to follow Christ
and you who have failed.

Come. It is Christ who asks us to meet him here.

THE COMMUNION

*During Communion, the Singing Scholars and Lay Singers will
sing **The Truth From Above** (trad. arranged by Ralph Vaughan
Williams).*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Holy God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son;
that, when he shall appear,**

**we may be found active in your service
and joyful in your praise;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer
Amen.**

Notices are given by the congregation, wardens, and clergy.

HYMN

[Tune: Cross of Jesus; Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)]

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free,
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.**

**Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us for ever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

**By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

THE BLESSING

The priest says

Christ give you grace to live lives of courage, generosity,
and peace.

And the blessing of God almighty;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit
be among you and remain with you now and always.
Amen.

The deacon says

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.



*In addition to the physical collection,
if you do not have cash with you, please
scan this QR code with your smartphone to
make a one-off or regular donation.*

*Alternatively, please visit sjp.org.uk/donate,
or us one of the tap donation points in the
church.*



For your prayers this week

Parish life and events

All members of our online community.

Disability History Month.

The Advent and carol services held this week.

Those who are ill

[Charles](#), [Jasmine](#), [Stephen](#), [Darci](#)

Recently departed

[Bernard](#), and for all who mourn him.

[Andrew](#), and for Steve and Joy and all who mourn him

[Nicholas](#), whose memorial service is on 4th December,
and for Lavinia who mourns him.

[Shelley](#), and for her family who mourn her.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.